

REMARKS

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE), an Information Disclosure Statement and a petition for a two month extension of time have today been filed as separate papers and copies are attached hereto.

Support for the definition of the heat-reactive resin as an acrylic copolymer is found at page 11, line 28 to page 12, line 14 of applicants' original specification. The further definition of the heat-reactive resin in claim 1 as amended, specifying its weight average molecular weight, is found at page 13, lines 17-19 of applicants' original specification, which teaching also furnishes support for newly added claim 13. Newly added claims 14 and 15 find support at page 13, lines 17-19 of applicants' original specification.

With regard to the amended wording of claim 1 which requires that the ionizing radiation curable resin and the heat-reactive curable resin be two different resins, the examiner's attention is directed to, for example, the use of the conjunction "and" throughout applicants' specification, the teaching at the paragraph spanning pages 10 and 11 of applicants' specification which refers to "a mixture" of the two different resins and Examples 1 and 2 representative of the present invention which are described at pages 20 and 21 of applicants' original specification.

Responsive to paragraph 4 of the office action, submitted herewith are copies of Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 6-20601 and Japanese Kokai No. 63-132097. Also submitted herewith is an English translation of relevant portions of Japanese Kokai 63-132097.

The rejection of claims 1-6, 8 and 9 and, to the extent applicable, newly added claims 13-15, for obviousness over "admitted prior art", optionally in view of Mori et al, is respectfully traversed on the basis of the present amendments. As the examiner as noted, Japanese Kokai 63-132097 discloses a transfer sheet having an adhesive layer "consisting [of] an ionizing radiation curable resin formed on the releasing surface," quoting from page 2 of applicants' original specification. However, that Japanese Kokai publication, as the examiner can verify from the Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith, contains no second, different heat-reactive resin. Further, a heat-reactive resin in the form of a copolymer having a weight average molecular weight within the recited range is further removed from anything suggested by the admitted prior art or Japanese Kokai 63-132097.

It is further submitted that insofar as the examiner relies upon the teachings of Mori et al for a suggestion of modification of the teachings of the admitted prior art or Japanese Kokai 63-132097, the reference combination is improper. Mori has no pressure-sensitive adhesive layer (or any layer which Mori characterizes or one skilled in the art would characterize as an adhesive layer) and therefore Mori's teachings cannot be suggestive of any modification of the adhesive layer of Japanese Kokai 63-132097 or of any other adhesive layer. Further, while Mori et al suggest at column 2, lines 43 and 44 that the disclosed resins may be used in combinations of two or more, Mori does not suggest a combination of a heat curable resin with an ionizing radiation curable resin.

The only mention of "adhesive" is where Mori et al describe the prior art at column 1, lines 38-42 as a "lith film provided with a protective film close to an adhesive." However, that

prior art should not be confused with the invention of Mori et al and Mori et al give no information as to the nature of the prior art adhesive.

The ratio of the two different resins in the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, as defined by claim 2, serves to further distinguish the present invention from anything suggested by any conceivable combination of Kokai 63-132097 and Mori et al.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider the rejections of record with a view toward allowance of the claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,


George A. Loud
Reg. No. 25,814

Dated: February 3, 2004

LORUSSO, LOUD & KELLY
3137 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22305

(703) 739-9393